



September 2023

Vincentian **Wisdom**
Quotes • Charism



SVdP National Assembly

Wednesday 9/6–9/9 All Day

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 9/19, 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Event

Friends of the Poor Walk

Saturday, 9/23, 9:00 AM Noon

Meeting

District Council Meeting

Saturday, 9/23 1-3 PM via ZOOM

Event

Bocce Tournament

Saturday, 9/30, 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Meeting

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday 10/17, 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Training

Ozanam Orientation

The Most Holy Rosary

Wednesday, 10/18, 8:00 AM–3:30 PM

Event

Gianni's Italian Bistro Fundraiser

Monday, 10/23, 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Training

2023-24 Officer Training

Saturday 10/28, 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Bob Liles Corner

Matthew Kelly has a famous saying: “Your essential purpose is to become the best version of yourself.”

I think most people try to improve how they do things. Those playing sports, even for fun, try to get better. What about how your conference operates? At your meeting do you talk about how to make improvements with your food pantry or how to do more effective home visits?

The Standards of Excellence are a yardstick to measure your conference's performance on how it can be better. Some items are required and some are over and beyond the minimum needed. For the required ones that your conference is not doing I would challenge your conference to discuss why they are required. The requirement has probably been integral to the Society for over 150 years. It has been reviewed many times. If you fully study the requirement hopefully you will understand why it is a requirement. Then your conference can formulate a plan to comply with it. It may take a month or it may take a year. It may require recruiting new Vincentians that are more capable at doing the requirement than the current Vincentians. But whatever your conference does, please do not simply say “but we have never done that” and move on.

In the following months I will go into more detail on the requirements that most conferences have trouble with. Of those that responded about 25% do not hold two meetings per month, 15% do not do home visits, and less than half of our Vincentians have attended an Ozanam Orientation.

Standards of Excellence - continued

Outside of the Minimum Requirements, these topics had 100% compliance.

Encourage Spiritual growth – And isn't this the most essential item?

Standard bylaws adopted

Fundraising is being done

Have guidelines for helping our neighbors in need

Do twinning

Try to get new members

Communication with the parish

Safeguarding policies

These were not 100%, but very high.

Officer and SA training

Encourage knowledge of the Rule

Encourage attendance at council events

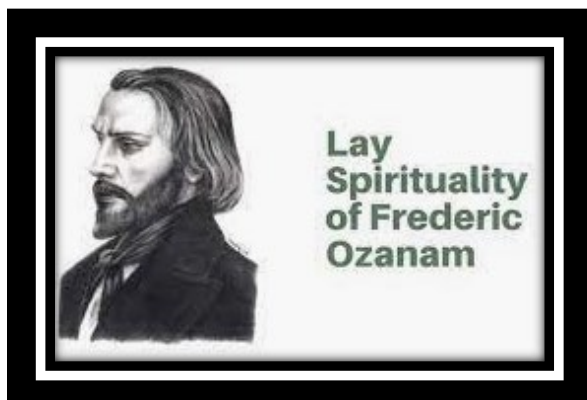
Annual review of services & growth

Special conference programs

Use of council programs

List of resources for our neighbors in need

Enlist local businesses to donate



3.8 Aggregation and Institution of Conferences and Councils

The visible unifying link within the Society is the Aggregation of the Conferences and the Institution of the Councils declared by the Council



Mark Your Calendar!

We are thrilled to share some exciting news with you - St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County has been named a 2023 California Nonprofit of the Year by District 7 California State Senator Steve Glazer! This recognition is a testament to the unwavering dedication of our volunteers, supporters, and friends who have made our mission possible.

Come and celebrate with us as we are formally recognized by District 7 California State Senator Steve Glazer as his 2023 Nonprofit of the Year. It is because of the impact that our Vincentians and other volunteers and staff have made in recent years that Senator Glazer has bestowed this recognition on St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County. Your impactful work in the community of bringing compassionate help and crucial services to individuals and families in need, including distributing over \$1.9 million of financial aid and \$3 million of in-kind aid, is what caught the Senator's attention leading to this appreciation. Please celebrate with us! *Claudia*

"St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County is a vital lifeline to people and families in need, and their work is more critical than ever given the difficult times faced by so many," said Senator Glazer, D-Contra Costa. "The volunteers at St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County treat people who use their services with small and large kindnesses that allow people to get through the day with dignity and hope. I am proud to choose them as my district's Nonprofit of the Year."

In honor of this recognition, we cordially invite you to join us for a special celebration hosted by the office of District 7 California State Senator Steve Glazer at St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County.

Event Details:

Date: September 20, 2023

Time: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Location: St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County Free Dining Room

Address: 2210 Gladstone Drive, Pittsburg

[Click Here to RSVP](#)



A Vincentian Resource for Every Vincentian

Have a Question? Need a Resource? What about Home Visits? Spirituality? Season of Sharing? Hope Conference? PG&E? Twinning vs. Co-Pay? The Diocese? Homeless? Mental Health? Food Bank?

Every Tuesday at 10:00 AM.

*Come by with a Question or just come by –
We may have the Answer, or You May Be the Answer for Someone.*

<https://bit.ly/TuesdayZoomForum>

Meeting ID: 925 635 3202

Passcode: Vincent

From our Vincentians in Hawaii

Our Windward Oahu Conference is the only St. Vincent de Paul Conference in Hawaii. As Vincentians, we respond to people in need wherever they live.

Calls for help and requests for assistance come from the whole state, including Maui. If you want to help us help the residents of Maui, our Society will welcome your donation. We'll earmark it to be used specifically for Maui requests and rebuilding. We have set up a separate financial record just for Maui receipts and disbursements. The need there is great and calls for assistance may span the next few years or more as residents rebuild their homes.

Donations may be sent to:

St. Vincent de Paul Windward Oahu Conference
c/o St. John Vianney Church
920 Keolu Drive
Kailua, HI 96734

Please contact us at:

stvincentdepaul@rcchawaii.org
or 808-456-7837 to leave a message.

Thank you so much for your kindness, thoughtfulness, and generosity. I hope this helps you to help us. May God bless you in your efforts.

God's love strengthens all,
Melodie Sasaki, President
SVDP Windward Oahu Conference
920 Keolu Dr., Kailua, Hawaii 96734



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County

Friends of the Poor Walk



Saturday, Sept. 23

Walks Begin at 9 am

Sign up. Donate. Participate.

Feed, Clothe, Shelter, and Heal Those in Need



Benefitting your neighbors in need
throughout Contra Costa County

Together we can end poverty one person,
one family, one community at a time.

TO REGISTER/ DONATE

Please visit: fopwalk.org

1) SVdP District Council FOP Walk
440 La Gonda Way
Danville, CA 94526

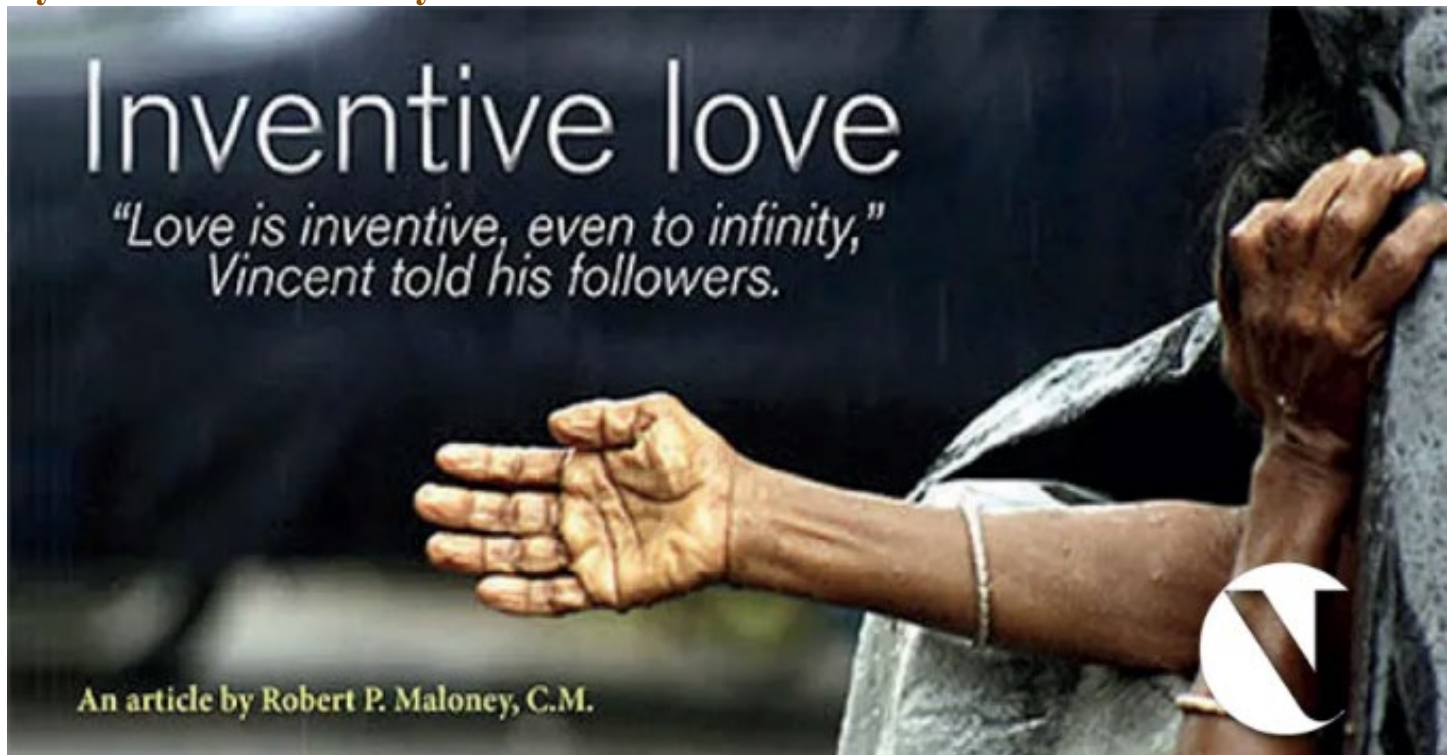
2) St. Agnes SVdP FOP Walk
3966 Chestnut Ave
Concord, CA 9459

3) West County SVdP FOP Walk
St. Joseph's School
1961 Plum St.
Pinoles, CA 94564



The Simple Way

By Fr. Robert Maloney C.M.

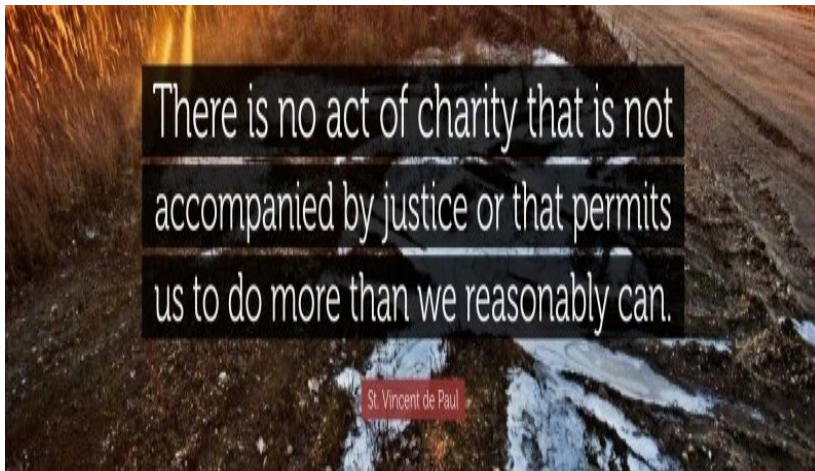


During Vincent’s lifetime, those close to him regarded him as a saint. What struck his contemporaries was the spirituality that lay beneath whatever he did. Vincent emphasized simplicity, proposing it to each group he founded as the first virtue for them to nurture. “Simplicity is the virtue I love most,” he said, “I call it my gospel.” He told the Daughters of Charity, “Wherever you see Christian simplicity, walk with confidence.” “God is very simple,” he said. Vincent saw simplicity as a mission-oriented virtue that would enable his followers to identify with the poor and communicate authentically with all. He said that a fundamental way of being simple is to listen humbly to all. Our ears should be open to the words of those who teach officially in the church, like the pope and bishops, and also to the cries of the poor, our brothers and sisters. In fact the poor, who so often go unheard, should have a privileged voice in the church. Experiencing the turbulence of church politics in his day, Vincent said, “The poor have the true religion.” For this man, who had once escaped poverty in search of a comfortable life, living simply moved to the top of his values. He believed that Christians must share God’s gifts generously with the poor.

When Vincent died on Sept. 27, 1660, it was clear that a deep spirituality had transformed his humanity. By his own account, he was strong-willed and had been easily moved to anger as a young man. He also had a tendency to be moody. But he recognized these traits and the need to confront them. “I begged God incessantly to change my dry, contentious manner and give me a warm, gentle spirit. And by the grace of God, and with the little bit of attention that I gave to holding back the movements of nature, I have somewhat changed my dark moods.” His contemporaries witnessed that the mature Vincent was not only inventive in deeds but had become a warm, approachable man who related to rich and poor alike in a simple, loving way.

Beyond Charity

Vincent often spoke of a love that is both “affective and effective.” He sought to provide ongoing educational and health care programs and establish structures to help the poor emerge from poverty. In that light, to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Vincent’s death, the international leaders of the Vincentian family have chosen to focus on the poor in Haiti and have inaugurated a microfinance Web site, www.zafen.org, which invites all interested parties to offer micro-loans and donations to previously screened projects there. The goal is not almsgiving but to work toward systemic change—helping Haitians create sustainable businesses that will enable them to emerge from poverty.



Truth-telling

- Vincent urged his followers to let the truth have a special place in their lives. He encouraged them to: speak the truth, despite embarrassment or inconvenience; witness to the truth so that their lives match their words; search for the truth humbly as wayfarers rather than thinking that they possess it as an owner; practice the truth through works of justice, charity, and peace; strive for single-minded truth or purity of intention; and live truthfully as servants of the poor, keeping their possessions modest and sharing readily.
- There is an excellent attractiveness about those who speak the truth. They are truly free. People relate to them quickly because they sense they are transparent and have no hidden agendas. Vincent acknowledged that telling the truth consistently is a complex discipline. Truth, in this sense, is fidelity. Jesus is faithful to us and promises to be with us always, even to the end.



As Vincentians, we are never alone. There is always a team behind us.

**PRESENTING
SPONSOR**

cfcs

CATHOLIC FUNERAL
& CEMETERY SERVICES



**THE BIG
LA BOCCE 2023
Bocce Ball Tournament**

This event benefits:
St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County and Leaves and Fishes of Contra Costa



The Society of St. Vincent de Paul
of Contra Costa County



**SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER
30th
2023**

Mark Your Calendar!

*Come enjoy fun in the sun!
The Big La Bocce is a rolling good time!*

**Join us for
The Big La Bocce
Tournament**

Saturday, September 30, 2023
10:00 am - 2:00 pm
100 Joe DiMaggio Drive, Martinez

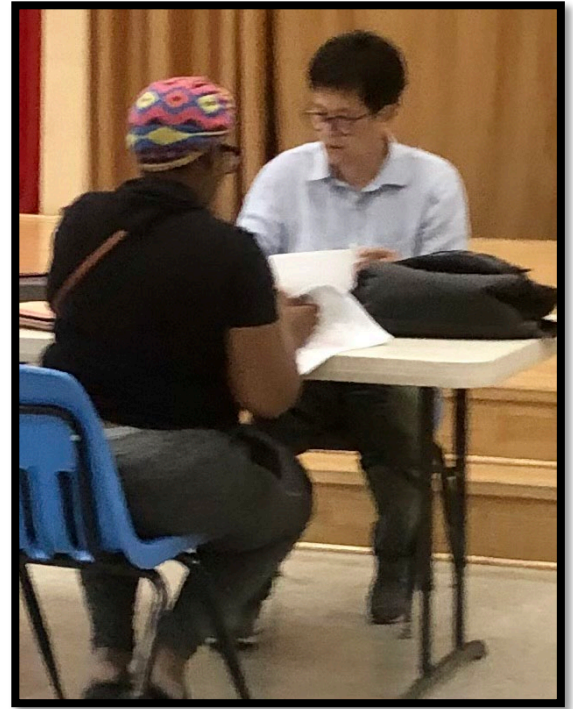
Benefitting both St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County and
Leaves and Fishes of Contra Costa
Includes a light breakfast, lunch, beverages, silent auction and raffle

10:00 am - Registration and Practice
10:40 am - 12:30 pm - 3 Games per Team (Timed Games)
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm - Lunch and Silent Auction
1:30 pm - Top 16 Teams Advance to Knock out Round*

*Finalists play until there's a winner

**Register yourself or as a team!
Sponsorships Available**

Sign Up Now



**The St. Vincent de Paul Conference
at Our Lady Queen of the World
hosted a Housing and Utility Help Day on August 5, 2023**

After the pandemic, many residents in Contra Costa County, including our neighbors in need who are parishioners at Our Lady Queen of the World in the Pittsburg/Bay Point area, have fallen behind or are still struggling with rental, mortgage, and utility payments. PG&E had begun throughout the county just to shut people's power off. This has had a terrible impact on our low-income neighbors with no funds to pay the utilities and the food for their families spoiling in their refrigerators. To help address this issue, Our St. Vincent de Paul Conference at Our Lady Queen of the World Parish, the Board Vice President of St. Vincent de Paul of Contra Costa County, and Vincentian support participated in their SVDP Conference hosting an Emergency Utility and Housing Services day on August 5, 2023, from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM—our aim and focus on assisting as many neighbors who find help at Our Lady Queen of the world find with their utility bills.

To ensure that each case could be considered for funding, we adhered to the requirements set by our funders. To provide all the requested documentation to submit their cases for funding. We were able to help ten families. Not being able to help everyone does not keep you from helping who we can.

DISTRICT COUNCIL NEWS: We're Growing to Better Support our Vincentians and our Conferences!



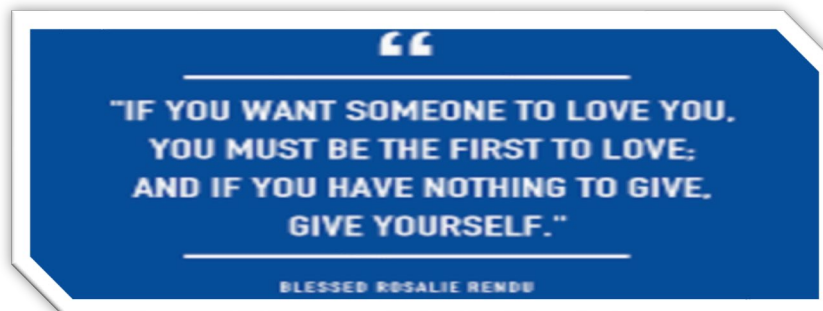
Greetings,

Allow me to introduce myself as Anita Mendoza. I have recently joined the Vincentian support team within the St. Vincent de Paul District Council of Contra Costa County. My role involves primarily assisting each of the West Contra Costa County Conferences. For now, it will include serving where I can and absorbing knowledge from each of you, enabling me to grow in my contributions in areas where my expertise can be of value.

As a Vincentian, I have been an active St. Paul's Church Conference member for the past six years. During this time, I experienced the challenges of housing issues alongside my neighbors, where an unjust eviction loomed over us. In response, I took proactive measures alongside my neighbors, seeking aid from various organizations that graciously responded to our appeals.

Driven by compassion, I heeded the call to support neighbors lacking essential resources for their daily lives. Through divine providence, this commitment has paved the way for me to extend my assistance to others within the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. My purpose here is to learn and serve, making myself available to support you in any possible capacity. Feel free to reach out to me using the provided contact number.

Warm regards,
Anita Mendoza
a.mendoza@svdp-cc.org



St. Vincent de Paul BBQ & Dance

Saturday, September 9, 2023

6:00 PM

On the St. Agnes Church Patio
3966 Chestnut Avenue., Concord



Delicious BBQ
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
Green & Potato Salads
Corn on the Cob
Homemade Desserts

Beer, Wine, and Soda for Sale

LIVE Music

with Jim Gill and the Business to 8:45 PM

Great Raffle
Baskets
\$20 per Person
\$70 per Family



HELP US HELP OTHERS!

RESERVE YOUR TICKETS WITH THE WALTONS

915-212-7679 OR djtwalton@gmail.com

You can also buy tickets after Mass at St. Agnes or the Ministry Center